

17 February 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

THROUGH: Chief, FI

SUBJECT: National Agency Name Checks

1. This memorandum suggests action on the part of the Deputy Director (Support). Such requested action is contained in paragraph 6.
2. The ready flow of information between government agencies, through the media of name checks, is a matter of ever increasing concern to both the administrative and legislative branches of the government. The various surveys which have been made of this Agency have in each instance shown direct interest in this phase of CIA's relations with other government agencies. There have been many pointed inquiries as to whether we were availing ourselves of the investigative effort already expended by other Federal agencies and naturally, the corollary proposition as to whether or not we are making available to outside agencies information which we have that is of direct concern to others.
3. I am considerably alarmed with the situation which now confronts us. For some time this matter of reciprocity in the exchange of information has been somewhat of a "one way street". Because we were a new agency and our facilities were little known, relatively little demand was placed upon us. On the other hand, because we were growing rapidly and our operations are continuing to expand, our demand on other agencies has been and continues to be rather large. We have requested, and at times, almost demanded a quality of service that would meet our needs and have given little in return. Almost without exception, other Federal agencies have cooperated to a commendable degree.
4. The situation which, I believe, should be brought to your attention and which must be faced forthwith is that we are failing in our responsibility to other agencies. Our cordial relations, in this area at least, are in jeopardy. We depend upon information furnished by these agencies and without their cooperation, the work of this office, in particular, and through it the work of the Agency will be seriously jeopardized. Of late, other Federal agencies have increased their name checks with us many

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fold. This is due to two factors, the increased quantity of pertinent information in our files, together with a more general understanding of the quality of information we are capable of furnishing. We have failed, however, to reciprocate and have gradually fallen behind with the very agencies that were so generous to us in our earlier years and continue to be at the present time. At one time, we made a commitment that we would answer name check requests within a period of ten days. I do not think this is unreasonable. However, at the present time, many of these requests from outside Federal agencies are running three and four months behind.

5. A vast number of these name checks are handled through the Security Office and conversely, the Security Office makes the demands upon other agencies. Consequently, I am in a position to sense the growing resentment at our indifference towards the needs of these other agencies. In so far as possible, I have diverted manpower and have streamlined the operations of this office to insure that it is not in any avoidable way contributing to this delay. When the delinquency continued to mount and the rumbles from the other agencies became louder, I requested a conference

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with [redacted] Chief, FI, and [redacted] Deputy 25X1A9a Chief, CI, since they more or less control the sources of information from this Agency, other than Security. I found they, too, were alerted. We all agreed that the problem is a major one and that it should be the concern of the Agency as a whole. It was felt that our present situation results partly from a general failure to recognize the top priority which must be given the requests from other Federal agencies with whom we deal on a mutually helpful basis in our day-to-day operations. It appears that in some instances we have given way to temporary expediencies to the detriment of our lasting relations. It also appears that the Records Integration Division, DD/P, has not grown apace with the influx of requests of this nature.

6. I strongly urge that immediate remedial steps be taken. It is suggested that whatever must be done, be done, to insure that uninterrupted top priority be given throughout the Agency in the servicing of reasonable and legitimate requests placed upon us by other agencies. Also, that sufficient personnel be diverted to the [redacted] 25X1A8a

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Division so that our relations with other government agencies will not be jeopardized for lack of facilities at this point.

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Sheffield Edwards
Director of Security

The recommendations in paragraph 6 are approved.

Lawrence K. White
Deputy Director (Support)

cc: Deputy Chief, CI